Import of coal by State Governments for thermal power stations

*389. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have taken a decision to allow State Governments to import coal, directly, for their thermal power stations;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Coal India Limited has failed to meet the demand for Coal of various thermal power stations; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and what other alternative steps Government propose to take to meet the demand for coal by various thermal power stations in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (b) Coal has been placed under Open General Licence (OGL) and as such there is no need for any licence/permission from Government of India for its import. Import duty at prevalent rates has to be paid on such imports. However, on requests received from Tamilnadu Electricity Board and Karnataka Power Corporation, Finance Ministry have permitted import of 2 million tonnes and 1 million tonne of coal respectively by these States at concessional import duty.

(c) and (d) According to projections for 1992-93, demand for coal power sector has been estimated at 150 million tonnes (MT). During the period April to November, 1992, coal companies supplied a total of 93.16 M.T. (Provisional—Coal India Ltd. 84.21 M.T. and Singarani Collieries Company Ltd. 8.95 M.T.) which works out to 62.10 per cent of the annual target of coal supplies. Coal companies are confident of meeting the full requirements of the power utilities as per the target and no shortfall in supply of coal to meet the demand of thermal power stations is anticipated.

Malfunctioning of Cantonment Boards

*390. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of complaints and representations received by the Director General of Defence Estates since October 1991 from publicmen, professors and lawyers against malfunctioning of certain Cantonment Boards under the Central Command;

(b) the details of funds released by the Central Government during the last two years to each such Cantonment Board under category 'A' and 'B';

(c) whether some of the boards have been violating the provisions of the Cantonments Land Administration Rules and other connected provisions of the Cantonment Act of 1924;

(d) whether the Central Government have not fixed up the responsibilities for such lapses on individual officers despite serious audit objections; and

(e) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e) There are 29 Cantonments under the Central Command. The Cantonment Boards have been duly constituted under the cantonments Act, 1924, for each of these Cantonments and are functioning. The details of funds released by the Central Government to Class I and

II Cantonments during 1990-91 and 1991-92 are indicated in the Statement (*See* Appendix CLXV, Annexed No. 73]

DGDE had received three complaints, dated 20.11.1991, 27.1.1992 and 3.2.1992, from Shri Ram Babu Mishra, Advocate Kanpur, under instructions of his clients namely Prof. P. S. Trivedi, Mohd. Nasim and others, alleging *inter-alia*, neglect/failure on the part of Kanpur Cantonment Board, in Central Command, in discharging its duties, such as recovery of dues/taxes, provision of basic civil amenities like sanitation, wastage of revenue etc. No instance of violation of the provisions of the Cantonment Act, 1924, or the Cantonment Land Administration Rules by Cantonment Boards has been reported.

The Cantonment Boards are statutory Local Bodies and their accounts are audited by the Local Audit Officers of the Defence Accounts Department. The Government have not received any report of serious udit objections in respect of these ntonment Boards, which may call for fixation of responsibility therefor.

Report of export group on conversion of Coal to gaseous and liquid fuels

*391. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expert group on conversion of coal to gaseous and *liquid fuels* had submitted its report in 1984;

(b) if so, what are its main recommendations and the details of follow up action taken thereon recommendation wise;

(c) the nature of experience gained so far; and

(d) what are the details of action taken/proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The expert group on 'Conversion of Coal to gaseous and liquid fuels' under the Chairmanship of Dr. G. S. Sidhu, the then Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research submitted its report in May 1984.

(b) to (d) The Committee recommended that the first priority for coal conversion in India should be the study of feasibility of various coal gasification techniques for power generation with high ash coals through 'Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle' (IGCC) method. Government sanctioned proposals in this regard and trials were carried out in the 24 tpd. pilot plant at Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad and 150 tpd. process demonstration unit of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited at Trichy. The study has shown that the fluidised bed and moving bed gasification techniques of IGCC System of power generation are techno-economically suitable to high ash coals.

Main recommendations of the Committee on conversion of coal to liquid fuels consist of (i) bench scale study of suitable catalysts and process parametres for the liquefaction of Indian coal to oil by direct hydrogenation process and (ii) pilot plant scale study for obtaining diesel oil from synthesis gas by Fisher-Tropsch process. Both these studies have been undertaken by Central Fuel Research Institute (CFRI).